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OMF [illegible] 1

S E C R E T

STAFF [illegible] FBIS 27702

TO: [redacted] FBIS/ABIDJAN, FBIS/AMMAN, 25X1
FBIS/ASUNCION, FBIS/BANGKOK, FBIS/HONG KONG, FBIS/LONDON,
FBIS/MBABANE, FBIS/NICOSIA, FBIS/OKINAWA, FBIS/PANAMA CITY, INFO
[redacted] FBIS/SEOUL, FBIS/TEL AVIV, FBIS/VIENNA Y 25X1
PASS TO FBIS/[redacted] 25X1
PASS TO FBIS/[redacted] Y
PASS TO FBIS/[redacted] Y
PASS TO [redacted] Y 25X1
SUBJECT: TRANSLITERATION WORKING GROUP Y
BUREAU, UNIT CHIEFS FROM [redacted] MANNERS Y 25X1

1. IN THE INTERESTS OF CONSISTENCY AND COMPUTERIZATION--PARTICULARLY AS THEY RELATE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AFS DATABASE FOR STORAGE, RETRIEVAL, AND PROFILING--I HAVE ASKED [redacted] 25X1 TERMINOLOGY COORDINATOR, TO FORM AND CHAIR A TRANSLITERATION WORKING GROUP (TWG) TO RESOLVE LONG-STANDING DISCREPANCIES WITHIN FBIS IN TRANSLITERATION SYSTEMS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE BOARD OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IS THE RECOGNIZED AUTHORITY FOR PLACE NAMES, FBIS ITSELF HAS REGULATORY AUTHORITY [redacted] 25X1

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER | COORDINATING OFFICERS | AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

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SECRET

STAFF FBIS 27702

[redacted] IN THE PERSON OF D/FBIS, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE 25X1
OF TRANSLITERATION SYSTEMS FOR THE AGENCY. BEFORE WE CAN TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY AND BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER AGENCY OFFICES FOR OVERALL COMPLIANCE, WE MUST GET OUR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. THE FIRST LANGUAGES THE WORKING GROUP WILL LOOK AT WILL BE ARABIC, GREEK, KOREAN, AND HEBREW. THERE ARE OTHER LANGUAGES WHERE TRANSLITERATION DIFFERENCES EXIST, BUT THE WORKING GROUP PREFERS TO TACKLE SOME OF THE MORE COMMONLY USED ONES IN OUR COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS WORK.

3. THE TWG WILL COMMUNICATE ITS SUGGESTIONS FOR RESOLVING TRANSLITERATION DIFFERENCES FOR YOUR INPUT AS THEY DEVELOP. ANYONE WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE, VIEWS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WILL AID THE TWG IN GETTING STARTED ON THE RIGHT FOOT IS INVITED TO SHARE THEM AT THIS TIME WITH THE TERMINOLOGY COORDINATOR. FIELD INPUT MAY EITHER BE POUCHED OR SENT DIRECTLY TO MAUREEN VIA ADMIN OR SERVICE MESSAGE.

4. THE WORKING GROUP AND I ARE AWARE THAT THIS TASK IS FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS, MOST OF WHICH STEM FROM STRONGLY HELD POSITIONS BY EMPLOYEES WHO CONSIDER THEMSELVES SOLE AUTHORITIES. THE CHALLENGE

DATE:
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SECRET

STAFF FBIS 87102

FOR THOSE WITH ENTRENCHED POSITIONS IS TO LISTEN TO ALTERNATIVES AND TO REALIZE THE OVERALL NEED FOR A SINGLE SYSTEM FOR EACH LANGUAGE. THE CHALLENGE FOR THE TWG IS TO GATHER ALL THE INFORMATION POSSIBLE, BALANCE THE POSITIONS AGAINST ONE ANOTHER, AND PROPOSE OPTIONS THAT CAN BE COORDINATED OR NEGOTIATED FOR ACCEPTANCE BY ALL. IF COOPERATION AND NEGOTIATION FAIL, THE TERMINOLOGY COORDINATOR WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO RECOMMEND A SYSTEM FOR APPROVAL BY D/FBIS. DECL OADR BY [redacted] 25X1

DATE: 5 JUL 88
ORIG: [redacted] 25X1
UNIT: DD/FBIS
EXT: [redacted] 25X1

R. W. MANNERS, D/FBIS

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